

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05964 192037Z  
ACTION ARA-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5964

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF & PAN  
USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO  
PANCANAL FOR IO

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION PRIORITY USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC  
AUG 18 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR INFO

QUOTE  
UNCLAS

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

EO 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.--TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: ALL MEDIA HEADLINE AUG. 19  
MEETING OF 505 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH  
TORRIJOS AND NEGOTIATORS TO DISCUSS TREATY. MEETING TO BE CARRIED  
LIVE ON NATIONWIDE TV AND RADIO NETWORKS.

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2. PRO-GOP CRITICA AND MATUTINO DEVOTE EDITS TO MEETING,  
APPROVING OF GOP'S EFFORTS TO BRIEF REPRESENTATIVES ON DETAILS  
OF TREATY AGREEMENT. AS MATUTINO POINTS OUT, REPRESENTATIVES  
WILL HAVE "DUTY OF TRANSMITTING INFORMATION THEY RECEIVE" TO  
ALL PARTS OF NATION. UPON THEIR EFFICIENCY, SAYS MATUTINO,  
"DEPENDS THE YES OR NO WITH WHICH PANAMANIAN PEOPLE MUST  
RATIFY OR REJECT TREATY".

3. CRITICA EDIT SAYS MEETING WILL RESULT IN SYMBOLIC PRONOUNCEMENT BY MAJORITY BEHIND "COMMANDER TORRIJOS," SHOWING EVEN THOSE PANAMANIAN "ALLIED WITH REACTIONARY FORCES IN THE US WHO DO NOT WANT TREATY, THAT THIS NATION HAS LAUNCHED ITS CRY OF LIBERATION, AND THAT IT WILL OBTAIN IT."

4. MATUTINO COLUMNIST RICARDO LINCÉ CALLS MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TESTIMONY BY BUNKER AND LINOWITZ ON CAPITOL HILL "OBVIOUS SIGNS OF HOW DEMOCRACY IS FUNCTIONING IN BOTH COUNTRIES...IN US A GROUP OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALREADY EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO TREATY, ACTING WITH ANTICIPATION AND SWIFTNESS WHICH SHOWS THEIR SUPERFICIALITY SINCE AGREEMENT IS STILL BEING EDITED...THEY OUGHT AT LEAST TO LET THE BABY BE BORN."

5. FRONT PAGE STORIES IN ALL MEDIA RECOUNT EFFORTS BY GOP TO INFORM MAJOR GROUPS OF TREATY DETAILS. ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PANAMANIAN AMBS. TO SPAIN AND VENEZUELA, BOTH FORMER JOURNALISTS, HAVE BEEN NAMED TO HEAD TREATY INFORMATION OFFICE, IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED.

6. ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD AND AFTERNOON AUG. 18 LA REPUBLICA FRONT-PAGE COMPLETION OF WRITING WORK. S & H HEADS STORY "TREATY TEAMS END WRITING ASSIGNMENT," AND REPUBLICA HEADS, "IMMINENT CONCLUSION OF TREATY WRITING; NEXT STEP: COMPARISON OF THE TWO VERSIONS."

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7. LA REPUBLICA CARRIES FULL INSIDE PAGE OF INTERVIEW WITH PANAMANIAN HEAD OF ZONE UNION LUIS ANDERSON, HEADED, "ANDERSON OF LOCAL 900 INDICATES GOVERNMENT ACHIEVED LABOR ASPIRATIONS."

8. SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA EDIT SEES NO PROBLEM WITH CRITICISM OF NEW TREATY, EVEN AT THIS EARLY DATE: "IT SHOULD NOT SURPRISE OR BOTHER ANYONE THAT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CRITICIZE AND CENSURE AGREEMENTS ADOPTED. ONLY IN DICTATORIAL REGIMES ARE THERE UNANIMITY AND CHORAL PRAISES...HOWEVER, THOSE WHO PREFER THAT WE CONTINUE SUBJECT TO SO-CALLED 'TREATY' OF 1903, TO PERPETUITY CLAUSE, TO JURISDICTION OF US,...HAVE RIGHT TO BELIEVE THIS, BUT ARE COINCIDING WITH MOST REACTIONARY NORTHAMERICANS." ESTRELLA BELIEVES THAT ONCE CONGRESSIONAL OPPONENTS READ TEXT OF TREATY, AND SEE THAT US INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED, "THEY WILL PROBABLY CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND HURRY TO GIVE IT THEIR MOST ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT."

9. ESTRELLA AND CRITICA CARRY ON INSIDE PAGES IPS CROSSPLAY ITEM ON US PRESS REACTION TO PROPOSED TREATY. ESTRELLA ALSO CARRIES IPS ARTICLE ON LATAM PRESS REACTION.

10. LA REPUBLICA AUG. 18 EDIT SAYS THAT PRES. CARTER RECOGNIZES HIS PROBLEM: "TWO FRONTS HAVE BEEN DEFINED, READY TO GIVE BATTLE IN THE US. ON ONE SIDE THE UNMOVABLES, THOSE WHO WILL NOT ADMIT ANY OPENING TOWARD JUST UNDERSTANDING WITH PANAMA. ON THE OTHER SIDE THOSE WHO BELIEVE POSITIVELY IN HUMAN RIGHTS, FREE DETERMINATION OF NATIONS, THOSE WHO ADMIT THAT PANAMA NEVER GAVE UP FOR ETERNITY THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF ITS PEOPLE."

11. REPUBLICA COLUMNIST MARIO AUGUSTO PRAISES TORRIJOS' DECISION TO BRIEF THREE EX-PRESIDENTS OF PANAMA, BUT ASKS WHY ALL EX-PRESIDENTS OF PANAMA WERE NOT INVITED TO BRIEFING, INCLUDING MARCO ROBLES AND ARNULFO ARIAS, BOTH NOW IN MIAMI.  
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